



**Education staff  
Stephen Heidt  
readies plants for  
boxing.**



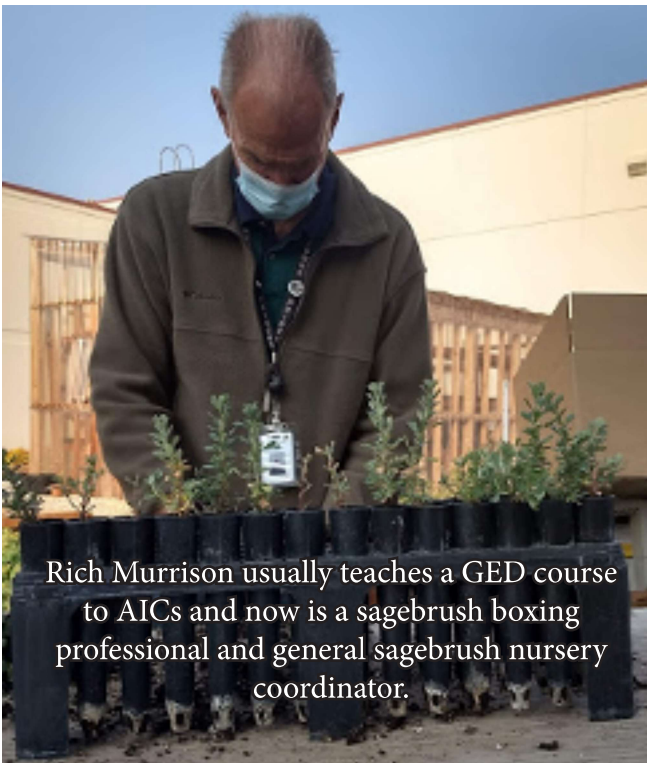
### Idaho State C.C. Education Staff Box it Up

by Holly Hovis, SPP contractor for Idaho & Eastern Oregon

In a normal year, Adults in Custody (AIC) and Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) Staff would work together to box up plants and close out the growing season. Unfortunately, the AIC sagebrush crew at Idaho State Correctional Center (ISCC) were experiencing restrictions as the facility managed COVID-19 cases. IAE contractors Ann DeBolt and Holly Hovis pulled together with the Education Staff to box up bitterbrush and sagebrush for the BLM Shoshone Field Office. Two long days were needed to box up 22,000 sagebrush seedlings and another half day to box up bitterbrush plants. As the Education Staff and IAE crew limped out of the prison gates, appreciation was high for all the work that the AIC sagebrush crew does for the program. The sagebrush and bitterbrush plants were transferred to the Dog Creek Fire near Gooding, Idaho where Mule Deer Foundation members planted into summer-baked hard dry soils with the goal of improving habitat for sage-grouse and other wildlife. In addition to the ISCC plants, IAE Ecological Education Coordinator Tyler Knapp brought around 2,000 plants from Lakeview, Oregon to round out the planting. Everyone's efforts were rewarded as rain fell after the last plant was placed in the ground.

**Thanks to ISCC staff for so graciously offering to work long days to get the job done and for being so flexible with scheduling. We appreciate your efforts to sustain the program and look forward to a more "normal" year to come.**

**Rich Murrison usually teaches a GED course to AICs and now is a sagebrush boxing professional and general sagebrush nursery coordinator.**



**Stephen Heidt, Vicki Wolters, Ann DeBolt, and Brenda Davis boxing sagebrush in the warm October sun.**